

Appl. No. 10/613,367
Amdt. dated 9/12/06
Reply to Office action of 6/13/06

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A test circuit for testing a memory circuit, the test circuit comprising:

a data input line for providing test data to be written to the memory circuit;

a comparator unit connected to said data input line and to the memory circuit, said comparator unit comparing expected values received over said data input line with the test data read from the memory circuit, the test data previously having been written to the memory circuit over said data input line; and

a data change circuit connected between said data input line and the memory circuit, said data change circuit being controllable depending on a result of a comparison performed in said comparator unit such that when an error occurs, further test data can be written to the memory circuit in a manner altered by said data change circuit;

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said data change circuit passing the test data in an unaltered form to said memory circuit if no error occurs and passing the test data in an inverted form to said memory circuit if an error occurs.

Claim 2 (original). The test circuit according to claim 1, wherein the expected values correspond to the test data previously written to the memory circuit.

Claim 3 (original). The test circuit according to claim 1, wherein:

said data change circuit is one of a plurality of data change circuits; and

said data input line is one of a plurality of data input lines each connected to one of said data change circuits, said data change circuits being controlled by said comparator device such that when the error occurs in a memory area addressed through one of said data input lines, each of said data change circuits is controlled such that the further test data on said plurality of data input lines can be written to the memory circuit in the altered manner.

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Claim 4 (currently amended). ~~The test circuit according to~~
~~claim 1, wherein A test circuit for testing a memory circuit,~~
~~the test circuit comprising:~~

a data input line for providing test data to be written to
the memory circuit;

a comparator unit connected to said data input line and to
the memory circuit, said comparator unit comparing expected
values received over said data input line with the test data
read from the memory circuit, the test data previously having
been written to the memory circuit over said data input line;
and

a data change circuit connected between said data input line
and the memory circuit, said data change circuit being
controllable depending on a result of a comparison performed
in said comparator unit such that when an error occurs,
further test data can be written to the memory circuit in a
manner altered by said data change circuit;

sayd data change circuit ~~has~~ having a controllable exclusive-
OR gate which, depending on a control signal generated by
sayd comparator device, passes the test data in unaltered
form to the memory unit or inverts the test data with an aid

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of an exclusive-OR function resulting in the further test data being altered test data.

Claim 5 (original). The test circuit according to claim 3, further comprising a plurality of blocks each having a plurality of further data input lines connected between said comparator unit and the memory circuit, when the error occurs in the memory area addressed by one of said further data input lines of one of said blocks, said data change circuits for all of said further data input lines of a respective block are controllable such that the further test data on said further data input lines of said respective block can be written in the altered manner to the memory circuit.

Claim 6 (original). The test circuit according to claim 1, wherein said comparison unit has a reset input for driving said comparison unit to not alter the test data in said data change circuit.

Claim 7 (currently amended). A method for testing a memory circuit, which comprises the steps of:

transmitting and writing test data to a memory area resulting in written-in test data;

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reading-out the test data from the memory area resulting in
read-out test data;

comparing the written-in test data to the read-out test data;

determining an occurrence of an error if the written-in test
data differs from and the read-out test data; ~~and~~

transmitting further test data after a detection of the
error, the further test data being altered during writing to
the memory area resulting in altered test data being written
into the memory area such that a subsequent comparison of the
altered test data read out and the further test data yields a
difference; and

passing the test data to the memory area in an unaltered form
if no error occurs, and passing the test data to the memory
area in an inverted form if an error occurs.

Claim 8 (original). The method according to claim 7, which
further comprises writing the altered test data into at least
one further memory area after the detection of the error in
the memory area, so that the further test data transmitted
for the memory area and for the at least one further memory
area and the altered test data read therefrom are different.

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Claim 9 (original). The method according to claim 7, which further comprises altering the further test data into the altered test data with an aid of an exclusive-OR function after the detection of the error.

Claim 10 (original). The method according to claim 7, which further comprises altering a specific operating parameter of the memory circuit between repeated writing-in and reading-out of the altered test data.

Claim 11 (original). The method according to claim 7, which further comprises:

performing a plurality of write/read operations; and
outputting error data to an evaluation unit, the error data specifying differences between the further test data transmitted during a last write operation and the altered test data read out during a last read operation.

Claim 12 (new): A method for testing a memory circuit, which comprises the steps of:

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transmitting and writing test data to a memory area resulting in written-in test data;

reading-out the test data from the memory area resulting in read-out test data;

comparing the written-in test data to the read-out test data;

determining an occurrence of an error if the written-in test data differs from and the read-out test data;

transmitting further test data after a detection of the error, the further test data being altered during writing to the memory area resulting in altered test data being written into the memory area such that a subsequent comparison of the altered test data read out and the further test data yields a difference; and

passing the test data in unaltered form to the memory area or inverting the test data with the aid of an exclusive-OR function resulting in the further test data being altered test data, depending on the comparison.